Unattended Child Policy

Approved by the Board of Trustees

10/8/15

Emporia Public Library welcomes children and their families to use its facility and services. However, the responsibility for supervising minor children at the library, which is a public building, rests solely with the parents, guardians or assigned chaperones of those children at all times, not with library personnel.

- 1. All children under seven years of age and children of any age having special needs related to physical or mental ability requiring special accommodations shall be attended and adequately supervised at all times by a parent, legal guardian, or individual fourteen years of age or older who is authorized to be responsible for the care of children (hereinafter "chaperone") using the library or attending scheduled library programs. A responsible person in charge of such children, as described above, must be on the library premises to supervise the children at all times.
- 2. In the event that any child described in Section 1 above appears to be left unattended or lost, or any other minor child appears to be lost, the staff of the library will immediately attempt to locate the child's parent, guardian or chaperone on the library premises. Two library staff members will stay with the child at all times until that person is found. Under no circumstances shall library staff take an unattended child out of the library building or provide transportation to the child. If the parent, guardian or chaperone is not located on the library premises within a reasonable period of time, as determined in the sole discretion of the Library Director or the designated Librarian in-charge, the library staff shall contact the Police Department for assistance. Parents, guardians and chaperones who leave their child unattended and unsupervised at the library, in violation of Section 1 above, may have their library privileges suspended temporarily or permanently, as determined by the Library Director in his or her sole discretion.
- 3. Children seven years of age and older may use the library unattended, subject to the rules and regulations of the Emporia Public Library.
- 4. Library staff cannot assume the responsibility for supervising a child's behavior and assuring a child's safety while at the library. It is the responsibility of each minor child's parent, guardian or chaperone to monitor his or her child's behavior and safety at all times. The Emporia Public Library is not responsible or liable for <u>any minors</u> left unattended on library premises, and those parents, guardians and chaperones who leave their children unattended assume the risks of doing so.